In the Claims:

Please cancel claims 9 and 18, and amend claims 1,7-8, 10, 13, 15, 17 and 20 as follows:

1. (Currently Amended) A mixture to be employed in conjunction with water for preparing a slurry that hydrates to form an exterior gypsum cement, comprising:

30 – 70% by weight hydraulic cement;

30 – 70% by weight calcined gypsum; and

0.05 – 2.5% polycarboxylate dispersant, wherein said polycarboxylate dispersant is a co-polymer based on oxyalkyleneglycol-alkyl ethers and unsaturated dicarboxylic acid derivatives.

2. (Original) The gypsum cement mixture of claim 1 wherein said calcined gypsum is alpha-calcined gypsum.

3. (Original) The gypsum cement mixture of claim 1 wherein said composition comprises 35 – 65% hydraulic cement.

4. (Original) The gypsum cement mixture of claim 1 wherein said composition comprises 35 – 65% calcined gypsum.

5. (Original) The gypsum cement mixture of claim 1 wherein said cement comprises a Type 5 cement.

6. (Original) The gypsum cement mixture of claim 1 wherein said composition comprises 0.05 – 1% polycarboxylate.

7. (Currently Amended) The gypsum cement mixture of claim 1 wherein said polycarboxylate dispersant is water-soluble.

8. (Currently Amended) The gypsum cement mixture of claim 1 wherein said polycarboxylate dispersant has a molecular weight range of from about 100,000 to about 5,000,000 Daltons.

9. (Canceled)

10. (Currently Amended) The gypsum cement mixture of claim 1 wherein said polycarboxylate dispersant comprises an acrylic resin latex, modified acrylic polymers, co-polymers of acrylic acid and acrylamide, polymers obtained by grafting polyalkyene oxide on a polycarbonate backbone or poly (methyl vinyl ether/maleic acid).

11. (Original) The gypsum cement mixture of claim 1 further comprising at least one of a set accelerating or set retarding additive.

12. (Original) The gypsum cement mixture of claim 11 wherein said additive includes at least one of aluminum sulfate, potassium sulfate, acids, proteinaceous retarders and calcium sulfate dihydrate.

13. (Currently Amended) The gypsum cement mixture of claim 12 wherein said calcium sulfate dihydrate is finely co-ground to a Blaine surface area of more than 12,000 m^2/g with a sugar.

14. (Original) The gypsum cement mixture of claim 1 wherein when 100 parts of said mixture is mixed with less than 40 parts water to make a slurry, said slurry expands less than 0.01% as it cures.

15. (Currently Amended) A gypsum cement slurry composition comprising:

hydraulic cement;

calcined gypsum;

polycarboxylate dispersant, wherein said polycarboxylate dispersant is a co-polymer based on oxyalkyleneglycol-alkyl ethers and unsaturated dicarboxylic acid derivatives; and,

less than 40 parts water per 100 parts by weight of the dry ingredients.

16. (Original) The slurry of claim 15 wherein said water comprises less than 25 parts per 100 parts by weight of the dry ingredients.

17. (Currently Amended) The slurry of claim 15 wherein said hydraulic cement is present in amounts of from 30-70 parts, said calcined gypsum is present in amounts of from 30-70 parts and said polycarboxylate dispersant is present in amounts of from 0.10 to 10 parts per 100 parts by weight of the total solids of the composition.

18. (Canceled)

19. (Original) The slurry of claim 15 wherein said slurry expands less than 0.01% as it cures.

20. (Currently Amended) A method of making a cast article comprising:

measuring dry ingredients including from about 30 parts to about 70 parts calcined gypsum, from about 30 parts to about 70 parts hydraulic cement, and from about 0.1 to about 10 parts polycarboxylate dispersant, wherein said polycarboxylate dispersant is a co-polymer based on oxyalkyleneglycol-alkyl ethers and unsaturated dicarboxylic acid derivatives;

measuring less than 40 parts water per 100 parts by weight of the dry ingredients;

blending the dry ingredients into the water;

forming a slurry;

pouring said slurry into a mold having an appropriate shape to form the cast article;

allowing said slurry to cure; and

removing the cast article from the mold.

21. (Original) The method of claim 20 further comprising adding a wet aggregate to the slurry prior to said pouring step.